

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The vast majority of the Laotian people are apathetic toward the political implications of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) invasion of Laos; indeed, they are unconcerned about politics in general. Those Laotians who are fleeing the DRV are doing so not to escape the "Communist invaders" but to escape the dangers attendant to armed combat near their homes. Of those Laotians who are politically conscious, about two-thirds are privately happy about the coming French demise in Laos; they believe they can make political peace with Prince Souphannavong, Free Laos leader who has been recognized by the DRV as Laos Chief of State, and other Free Laos leaders who have cast their lot with the DRV.

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